

Application No. 10/772,997
5904.214-US

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REMARKS

Claim 17 and 18 are hereby cancelled. Claim 5 is amended to add a comma for clarity. New claims 19 and 20 are directed to specific aspects of the invention claimed by claims 8 and 14, respectively. The amendments add no new matter and raise no issues that would require an additional search or substantive examination given the subject matter of the allowed claims. Accordingly, Applicants believe that entry of these amendments, even after the final Office Action of December 15, 2005, is proper.

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 14, 19, and 20 are pending and at issue. Claims 1, 8, and 14 are the only pending independent claims.

The final Office Action of December 15, 2005 indicates that claims 1-6, 8-11, and 14 are allowable. The addition of new claims 19 and 20 is not believed to have any impact on this decision, inasmuch as these claims are directed to specific aspects of already allowed claims 8 and 14, respectively, and represent clearly described aspects of Applicants' invention. As the only claims rejected in the Office Action of December 15, 2005 (17 and 18), have now been cancelled, Applicants consider allowance of all the pending claims to be proper.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and issue. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this application and to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1447. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Len S. Smith/
Len S. Smith, Reg. No. 43,139
Customer No. 23,650
609-919-7760